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by

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live to eat, but we eat to live. Our goal is not eating. Our goal is not a job. These things should be a means of facilitating the worship of Allah.

The main purpose of every Muslim, male and female, in this life is to worship Allah, to know Allah, and to single out Allah with all of the 'ibadah (all forms of worship). Why do we make salaah, siyam (fasting), hajj, and pay zakah? All of these acts are 'ibadah and 'amaal saalihah (righteous deeds). Acts of worship build the foundation of our Islam.

It is narrated on the authority of 'Abdullah ibn Umar (radiy Allahu anhummaa) that the Prophet said: "(The superstructure of) al-Islam is raised on five (pillars), i.e. the oneness of Allah, the establishment of prayer, payment of Zakah, the fast of Ramadan, and Pilgrimage (to Mecca)." A person said (to 'Abdullah b. Umar the narrator): "Which of the two precedes the other- Pilgrimage or the fasts of Ramadan?" Upon this he (the narrator) replied: "No (it is not the Pilgrimage first), but the fasts of Ramadan precede the Pilgrimage." (Bukhari)

Imagine for a moment that Islam is like a mansion or a big house, and you are trying to erect the pillars of Al-Islam from the salaah, the zakah, the sawm, and the hajj; but there are some termites that keep eating away at the foundation. You perform your hajj, it gets destroyed or weakened, because the termites are eating this pillar. You try to make your salaah, and after this, the termites eat your salaah. Now your salaah has been destroyed as well.

## Termite # 1 Rushing In Prayer

How can this be? I will give you a very simple example that everyone can relate to. It is not the example that I wanted to begin with, but everybody will be familiar with it and can relate to it. I am sure that most of you, if not all of you, know about the famous hadith of al-musi salaatu (the one who prayed badly).

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أن رجلاً دخل المسجد ورسول الله -صلى الله عليه وسلم- جالس في ناحية المسجد، فصلى ثم جاء فسلم عليه، فقال له رسول الله -صلى الله عليه وسلم- "وعليك السلام، ارجع فصل فإنك لم تصل". فرجع فصلى ثم جاء فسلم، فقال: "وعليك السلام، ارجع فصل فإنك لم تصل". فقال في الثالثة أو في التي بعدها: علمني يا رسول الله. فقال: "إذا قمت إلى الصلاة فأسبغ الوضوء، ثم استقبل القبلة فكبر، ثم اقرأ بما تيسر معك من القرآن، ثم اركع حتى تطمئن راکعاً، ثم ارفع حتى تستوي قائماً، ثم اسجد حتى تطمئن ساجداً، ثم ارفع حتى تطمئن جالساً، ثم افعل ذلك في صلاتك كلها".  
رواه البخاري

Narrated Abu Huraira (radiy Allahu anhu): Allah's Messenger entered the mosque, and a person followed him. The man prayed, and went to the Prophet and greeted him. The Prophet returned the greeting and

said to him, "Go back and pray, for you have not prayed." The man went back, prayed in the same way as before, returned, and greeted the Prophet, who said, "Go back and pray, for you have not prayed." This happened thrice. The man said, "By Him Who sent you with the Truth, I cannot offer the prayer in a better way than this. Please, teach me how to pray." The Prophet said, "When you stand for Prayer say takbir (Allahu Akbar), and then recite from the Qur'aan (of what you know by heart), and then bow till you feel at ease. Then raise your head and stand up straight, then prostrate till you feel at ease during your prostration, then sit with calmness till you feel at ease (do not hurry), and do the same in all your prayers." (Bukhari)

The Prophet replied to the man's greeting and told him that his prayer was not acceptable. What happened?

The man prayed, but an inspector told him- according to city code, according to the heavenly code, and according to the way of Islam, it is not acceptable. The man did perform his salaah, but the Prophet told him, "Go make your salaah over." Why? He said, "You didn't make salaah." Do you see how this relates to termites?

When the man went to the Prophet for the second time, the Prophet said, "Go make your salaah over." The man went back again and performed his salaah. He came to him a third time and said, "As-salaam alaikum, Prophet." The Prophet replied "Wa Alaikumus Salaam. Go and make your salaah over again."

The man now realized that something was destroying

the deed that he was performing. Something was eating up those blessings and blowing them away. What was going on? He said to the Prophet, "I swear by the One who sends you with the truth, I know no better than what I am doing, then teach me. Teach me." So the Prophet taught him.

The salaah was now acceptable. Before this, something was eating it up, just as the termites eat the wood of a structure. Now, think for a moment. How many Muslims have you observed making salaah like this: They enter the mosque or musullah for the four rak'at of dhuhr prayer, and it only takes them about two or three minutes maximum to complete them? Let's be honest with each other. Maybe we are doing this, and we are not paying attention. Have you ever noticed someone saying Sami' Allahu Liman Hamida and holding his clothes as if his pants were going to fly? He does not want to let them go, because he has to go back to something else right away.

An example of this is like that of a person who performed salaah while being observed by a righteous person. He said, "Come here." The other person asked, "Yes?" He asked, "How long have you been praying like this?" The other person replied that he had been praying like that for forty years. He said, "You have never prayed for forty years."

This is very dangerous. Subhaan Allah. We have plenty of time to talk to each other, watch TV, read newspapers, chat on the computer, and stay on the phone for hours. When it comes to talking to Allah,

being in the presence of Allah, and having privacy between you and Allah, it becomes fast and quick, as if you are snapping your fingers. This kind of salaah is unacceptable, and Allah says:

((قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ (١) الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ خَاشِعُونَ (٢)))

1. Successful indeed are the believers.
2. Those who offer their Salaah (prayers) with all humility and full submissiveness." (23:1-2)

What is the first quality of the believers? The answer is those who are humble and mindful in their prayer. When you are reciting the Qur'aan, you need to think about what you are saying.

What are you reciting when you pray? Do you know what you are saying? A person says, "Yes, I know if I slow down, I know what "Al-Fatihah" means." So what is stopping you from slowing down? What is the rush? Their response is, "See Akhi, you know in our lives nowadays, everything is moving so fast." You are going to die, and nothing from this life will go with you to the grave. You are going to meet Allah. The first thing that will happen is that you are going to be judged by Allah on the Day of Judgment.

عن الحسن عن حريث بن قبيصة، قال: قدمت المدينة فقلت اللهم يسر لي جليساً صالحاً قال فجلست إلى أبي هريرة فقلت: إني سألت الله أن يرزقني جليساً صالحاً فحدثني بحديث سمعته من رسول الله لعل الله أن ينفعني

به، فقال سمعت رسول الله يقول: "إِنَّ أَوَّلَ مَا يُحَاسَبُ بِهِ الْعَبْدُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ مِنْ عَمَلِهِ صَلَاتُهُ، فَإِنْ صَلَحَتْ فَقَدْ أَفْلَحَ وَأَنْجَحَ، وَإِنْ فَسَدَتْ فَقَدْ خَابَ وَخَسِرَ، فَإِنْ انْتَقَصَ مِنْ فَرِيضَةٍ شَيْئاً قَالَ الرَّبُّ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى: أَنْظِرُوا هَذَا لِعَبْدِي مَنْ تَطَوَّعَ؟ فَيُكْمَلُ بِهَا مَا انْتَقَصَ مِنَ الْفَرِيضَةِ، ثُمَّ يَكُونُ سَائِرُ عَمَلِهِ عَلَى ذَلِكَ". رواه الترمذي

"Abu Huraira reported that the Messenger of Allah said, "The first of man's deeds for which he will be called to account on the Day of Resurrection will be Salaah. If it is found to be perfect, he will be safe and successful, but if it is incomplete, he will be unfortunate and a loser. If any shortcoming is found in the obligatory salaah, the Glorious and Exalted Rabb will command to see whether his slave has offered any voluntary salaah so that the obligatory salaah may be made up by it. Then the rest of his actions will be treated in the same manner." (Tirmidhi)

This is a serious issue. This is like your Visa when you enter the airport. They do not care if you hold a PhD, or a Masters Degree in Technology, or whatever it may be. That does not matter. All they want to see is a Visa in your passport. Your "Visa" for Jannah is your salaah.

On the Day of Judgment, the first thing to be judged will be your salaah. Was the salaah acceptable? Did you make salaah? If yes, did you make it on time? If yes, did you make it with khushu'? Were you mindful in your prayer, or were you in a rush? These are very important questions you should think about.

'Almighty Allah says: "I am free of polytheism and of the polytheists. Whoso does an action of setting up a partner with Me, besides Me, I leave him alone with his shirk." (Muslim)

((يَعْلَمُ خَائِنَةَ الْأَعْيُنِ وَمَا تُخْفِي الصُّدُورُ)) ١٩

"Allah knows the fraud of the eyes and all that the breasts conceal." {41:19}

عن رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنَّهُ قَالَ: إِنَّ أَخَوْفَ مَا أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ الشِّرْكَ الْأَصْغَرَ قَالُوا وَمَا الشِّرْكَ الْأَصْغَرُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ الرِّيَاءُ يَقُولُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ لَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِذَا جُزِيَ النَّاسُ بِأَعْمَالِهِمْ اذْهَبُوا إِلَى الَّذِينَ كُنْتُمْ تُرَآءُونَ فِي الدُّنْيَا فَاَنْظُرُوا هَلْ تَحِدُونَهُمْ جَزَاءً. (مسند أحمد)

"The Prophet of Allah said: 'The thing that I fear most for you is minor shirk, Ar-Riyaa. Allah will say on the Day of Judgment, when He rewards the people according to their deeds, 'Go to those people whom, in the dunyah, you used to do your deeds to be praised by them, and see if you can find a reward with them.'" (Ahmad)

## Termite # 9 Seeking Soothsayers

In Egypt, the coffee used to be extremely thick compared to that found in other countries. After the

people drank the coffee and put the cup upside down, the coffee that drips from inside makes a trace because of its thickness. Some women who have nothing better to do, visit and chat with each other. They say, "Come on Sister, see my luck." So they drink the coffee together and put the cup upside down. One of the ladies will turn the cup over again. And she will say something like, "Oh wow, you have a long trip lady. Your husband is taking you someplace. He is going to buy you something. Oh, oh, oh, but I see something here." "What? What?" "I think he is...you better watch him... I think he is talking to someone else."

Some people take it serious, and some people may joke around. This is very serious, because when they do something like this, they are claiming knowledge of the unseen. The knowledge of the unseen only belongs to Allah. If you think that someone knows the unseen, you are making that person equal to Allah.

عن رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنَّهُ قَالَ مَنْ أَتَى كَاهِنًا أَوْ عَرَّافًا قَصَدَقَهُ بِمَا يَقُولُ فَقَدْ كَفَرَ بِمَا أُنْزِلَ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ (مسند أحمد)

"Abu Huraira reported that the Messenger of Allah said: 'He who visits a diviner or a fortuneteller, and he believes in what he says, indeed he has disbelieved in what has been revealed to Muhammad.'" (Ahmad)

"Safiyyah, one of the wives of Allah's Messenger, reported Allah's Messenger as having said: "He who